

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' response to the previous office action and the amendment have been fully considered and acknowledged.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 84-147 are allowed.

The present invention is drawn to a method for amplifying a target nucleic acid using riboprimers comprising only ribonucleotides wherein at least one of the pyrimidine nucleotides is a pyrimidine 2'-deoxyribonucleotide, extending the riboprimers with a DNA polymerase that lacks 5' to 3' exonuclease, cleaving the riboprimers after extension using RNase H and repeating the primer extension to obtain multiple copies of target nucleic acid. The closest prior art Kurn et al. in view of Shibata or Dean et al. teach a method for amplifying a target nucleic acid using a chimeric primer, however the closest prior art did not teach riboprimers comprising only ribonucleotides and extending the primer with a DNA polymerase that lacks 5' to 3' exonuclease activity as required by the instant claims. Thus the instant invention was not taught or obvious over the closest prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suryaprabha Chunduru whose telephone number is 571-272-0783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30A.M. - 4.30P.M., Mon - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Suryaprabha Chunduru/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637